25. (new) A variant according to claim 23 wherein the amino acid mutation is in the B domain and/or the C domain of the HBV DNA polymerase.

26. (new) A variant according to claim 23 comprising a mutation in one or more of amino acids within the sequence:

Q/K T Y/F G R/W KLHL Y/L S/A HPI I/V LGFRK I/L PMG V/G GLS PFLL AQFTSAI C/L S (SEQ ID NO:25)

of HBV DNA polymerase.

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27. (new) A variant according to claim 26 comprising a mutation in one or more amino acids within the sequence:

S/A HPI I/V LGFRK I/L PMG V/G GLSPFLLAQFTSAIC/L S (SEQ ID NO:44)

of HBV DNA polymerase.

28. (new) A variant according to claim 23 comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a DNA polymerase having the amino acid sequence:

$X_1HPIX_2LGX_3RKX_4PMGX_5GLSX_6FLX_7AQFTSAX_8X_9$ ..... (SEQ ID NO:27)

$X_{10}FX_{11}YX_{12}DDX_{13}VLGAX_{14}X_{15}$ (SEQ ID NO:28)

wherein $X_1$ is S or A;

$X_2$ is I or V;

$X_3$ is F or L;

$X_4$ is I or L;

$X_5$ is L or V or G;

$X_6$ is P or L;

$X_7$ is L or M;

$X_8$ is I or L;

$X_9$ is C or L;

$X_{10}$ is A or V;

$X_{11}$ is S or A;

$X_{12}$ is M or I or V;

$X_{13}$ is V or L or M;

$X_{14}$ is K or R; and/or

$X_{15}$ S or T;

and wherein said variant exhibits reduced sensitivity to a nucleoside analogue, such as famciclovir (penciclovir) and/or lamivudine (3TC).

29. (new) A variant according to claim 23 having a mutation in one or more of amino acids 118 to 169 or 169 to 207 of HBV surface antigen.

30. (new) A variant according to claim 29 comprising a DNA polymerase having the amino acid sequence:

$X_{16}TX_{17}X_{18}X_{19}KLHLX_{20}X_{21}HPIX_{22}LGX_3RKX_4PMGX_5GLSX_6FLX_7AQFTSAX_8X_9$ .....

(SEQ ID NO:42)

$X_{10}FX_{11}YM_{12}DDX_{13}VLGAX_{14}X_{15}$ (SEQ ID NO:43)

wherein: $X_{16}$ is Q or K;

$X_{17}$ is Y or F;

$X_{18}$ is G;

$X_{19}$ is R or W or E;

$X_{20}$ is Y or L;

$X_{21}$ is S or A;

$X_{22}$ is I or V;

$X_3$ is F or L;

$X_4$ is I or L;

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$X_5$ is L or V or G;

$X_6$ is P or L;

$X_7$ is L or M;

$X_8$ is I or L;

$X_9$ is C or L;

$X_{10}$ is A or V;

$X_{11}$ is S or A;

$X_{12}$ is M or I or V;

$X_{13}$ is V or L or M;

$X_{14}$ is K or R; and/or

$X_{15}$ S or T;

and wherein said variant exhibits reduced sensitivity to a nucleoside analogue, such as famciclovir (penciclovir) and/or lamivudine (3TC).